

A& and Commission
B Y
The general meeting of the Episcopal Ministers at
Aberdeen, for presenting some Queries
TO THE
COMMITTEE
OF THE LATE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Met at *Aberdeen*, To which is prefixed a list of the
Delegats Commissionat by the said General meet-
ing for presenting the said Queries.

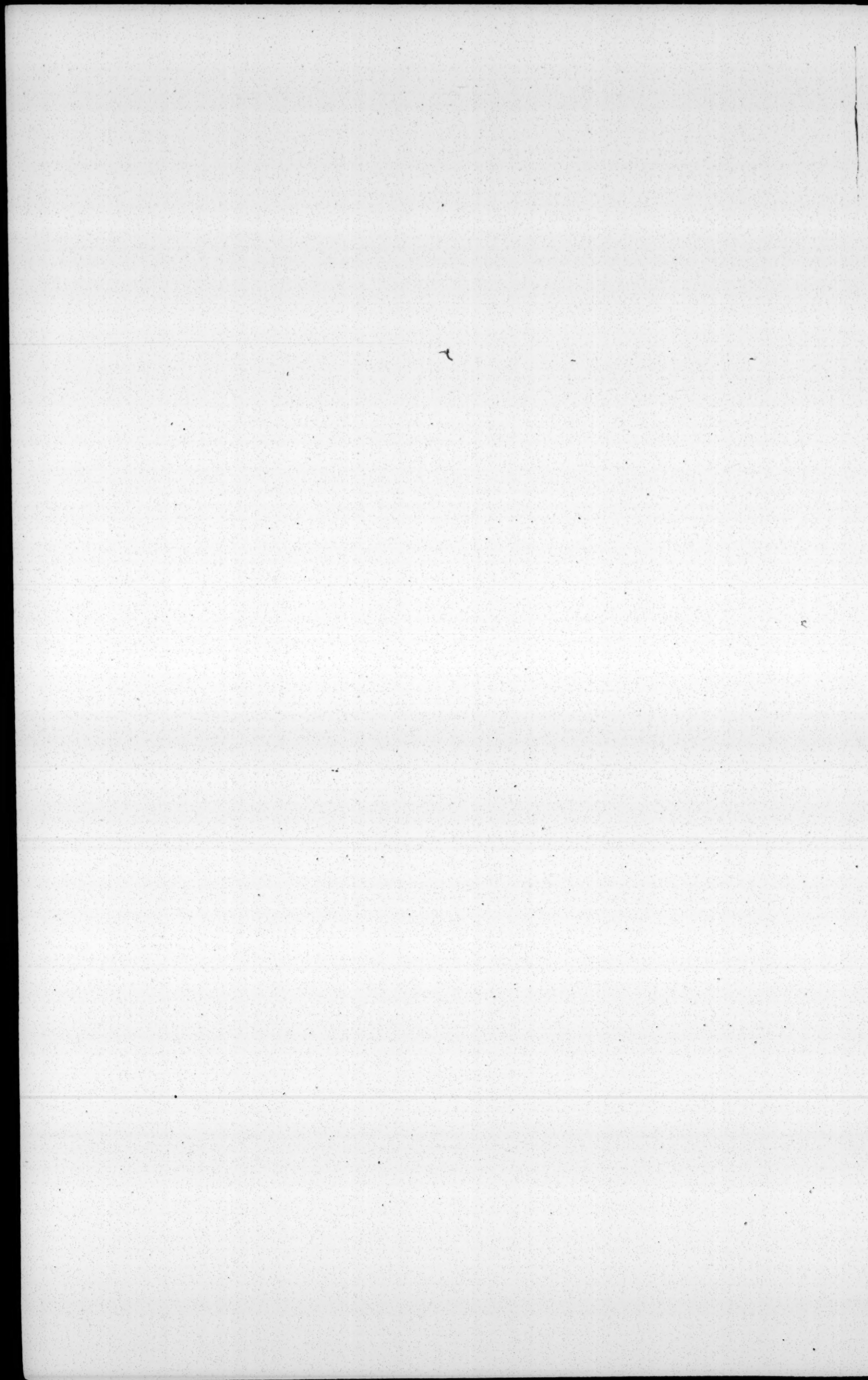
The Protestation and Appeal given in at *Aberdeen*,
to the Committee of the late General Assembly
by the Ministers Delegat for that end, from the
Diocess of *Aberdeen* for themselves and in name
of all their Adherents.

Protestation and Appeal by the Episcopal Ministers
of the *Diocess of Ross*, in their own Name and
and their Brethren therein mentioned, against the
Committee of the late General Assembly met

Printed by Order of the Committee of Parliament
for the Security of the Kingdom.

Edinburgh, Printed in the Year, 1695.





Names of the Delegats commissionat by the
General Meeting at *Aberdeen* upon the 5th Day
of *June* 1694. for presenting the *Queries, &c.* to
the Committee at *Aberdeen*, are as follows.

M R. John Forbes parson of <i>Kincardin</i> .	Mr. Alexander Gelly parson of <i>Fordyce</i>
Mr. Thomas Robertson parson of <i>Clatt</i> .	Mr. Alexander Barclay Minister at <i>Peterhead</i> .
Mr. Alexander Lunan parson of <i>Daviot</i> .	Mr. Alexander Clark Minister at <i>Metblich</i> .
Mr. Patrick Harvey parson of <i>Forgon</i>	Mr. Alexander Mill Minister at <i>Udnie</i> .

Together with all the Ministers of the presbytry of *Aberdeen*, &c. Of which Number of Delegats, these were present; and did give in the said *Queries* to the Committee fore said, upon the 29th Day of *June* in the Year fore said, viz

Mr. Thomas Robertson parson of <i>Clatt</i> .	Mr. Alexander Clark Minister at <i>Metblich</i> ,
Mr. Alexander Lunan parson of <i>Daviot</i> .	Mr. Alexander Mill Minister at <i>Udnie</i>

And these of the Presbytry of *Aberdeen*.

Mr. James Gordon parson of <i>Banchory Glavinick</i> ,	Mr. Gilbert Ramsey Minister at <i>Dyce</i> .
Mr. George White Minister at <i>Maryculter</i> ,	Mr. George Season Minister at <i>Uppermachan</i>
Mr. John Darnop Minister at <i>Skeen</i> ,	Mr. Richard Metland Minister at <i>Nigg</i>
Mr. George Smith Minister at <i>Kinnellar</i>	Mr. Thomas Crevey Minister at <i>Norwhills</i>
	Sic Subscrib. M. Chrevey, Clericus

At the Kings Colledge Kirk of *Aberdeen* June the 5. 1694.

THE which Day being met the Ministers of the Diocels of *Aberdeen*, together with Delegats from the Diocesses of *Murray*, *Ross*, *Caithness* and *Orkney*, and from the Shyres of *Mairns* and *Angus*; for consulting anent the necessary Affairs of the Church in this juncture: And understanding that the Committee of the late Presbyterian Assembly for the North, is to sit at *Aberdeen* once in this Month; Did therefore nominate and chuse the Brethren after mentioned, viz Mr. John Forbes Parson of *Kincardin*, Mr. Thomas Robertson Parson of *Clatt*, Mr. Alexander Lunan Parson of *Daviot*, Mr. Alexander Gelly Parson of *Fordyce*, Mr. Patrick Harvey Minister of *Forgon*, Mr. Alexander Barclay Minister at *Peterhead*, Mr. Alexander Clark Minister at *Metblich*, Mr. Alexander Mill Minister at *Udny*: Together with all the Brethren of the Presbytry of *Aberdeen*; together also with any others of other Presbyteries or Diocesses who may be upon the place for the time or any three or one of them as their Commissioners and Representatives, with full Power, Warrant and Commission to them To compear before the said Committee when ever it shall happen any of their Number to be cited before them: And in their Name to present to them some *Queries* or Proposals concerted by them at their said Meeting, relating to the Ecclesiastick Authority and Jurisdiction of the said Committee, And to demand Answers and Resolutions thereunto, all other things to act and do relative to the Churches Interest, *pro re nata*. And to establish and constitut Procurators one or more in their Name, To compear in their Absence, and to Act before the said Committee, as fully and freely as if all and every one of them were personally present themselves And appointed an Extract of this Act to be given to the fore saids Commissioners, under the Clerk of the Meetings Hand, for their warrant and Commission

Extracted forth of the Records of the Meeting above specified.

M. Chrevey Clerk.

Protestation and Appeal given in at *Aberdeen* upon the Twentieth ninth of *June* One Thousand Six Hundred and Ninety Four Years, under form of Instrument, To the Committee of the late Presbyterian Assembly, by the Ministers De-
legat for that end from the Diocess of *Aberdeen* for themselves and in name of all their Adhe-
rents.

WEE the Ministers of the Diocesses of *Aberdeen, Murray, Ross, Caithness, Orkney*, and of the Shires of *Angus*, and *Merns* doe hereby declare, that we cannot own the As-
semblies of our Presbyterian Brethren since the last esta-
blishment of their Government, to have been the full and
lawful representatives of this National Church, and consequently that no person
or persons whatsoever by vertue of any Delegation from them can justly claim
a power to be the judges of our Lives and Doctrines, according to what we
have exprest in the Queries given in to this Committee, the Tenor whereof is
as followeth.

Primo, Whereas according to the principles of Presbyterian Governmeht,
There ought to be no higher degree of Pastors in the Church then Presbyters
and all Presbyters are equal in power and Authority; We desire to know by
what Divine or Ecclesiastical Right, Those fifty or sixty surviving Presbyterian
Ministers, not being in actual charge within this Kingdom did take upon them
the Exercise of the whole Ecclesiastical power of this National Church, and
have exercised a more absolute Authority and Jurisdiction over their Brethren,
Nine Hundred or a Thousand Ministers who were in office when Episcopacy
was laid aside, then ever the Bishops pretended unto, who never claimed a
power to make Acts concernig the Church without consent of its Ministers

2do Since according to their own principles, the power of preaching the Gos-
pel and Administrating the Sacraments, and the power of Discipline and Go-
vernment are inseperable in the Office of a Pastor. *Queritur*, if that constitution
of Church Government be Lawful which excludes the greatest part of the Pa-
stors of the Church from having any share in the Government thereof.

3do, Seing no Assen bly of Church Officers can justly claim any Authority,
or Jurisdiction over a Chu ch wherein that Church is not duely represented, and
a Church cannot be duely represented in an Assembly in which their Delegates
are not allowed to sit, and that by the constitution of this Church a General
Assembly doth consist of Commissioners from all the Presbyteries within the
Kingdom, *Queritur*, How the late Presbyterian Assemblies can be owned for
Lawful General Assemblies of this Church since they consisted intirely of the
Presbyterian Party: And the Presbyteries of the Diocesses and Shires above-
mentioned had no Commissioners present at these Assemblies, nor had they a
call to send it.

4do. Since by the principles already mentioned, all Pastors have an equal
right to share in the Government of that Church whereof they are Members
and

and Office-bearers, and since the whole body of the pastors of this Church who were in office at the time of the establishment of Episcopacy cannot be charged with Ignorance, gross Errour, and Immorality of Life, or supine Negligence in their office, Wee cannot understand how the constitution of the present Church Government and late Assemblies can be Justified by the Presbyterian Ministers, but upon the supposition, that the whole body of Pastors foresaid are either no Ministers of the Gospel, or such corrupt ones upon the account of their principles & practices in relation to Church Government, as that they are not worthy to be trusted with the exercise of that power which belongs to the pastoral office, which wee cannot own without either renouncing our Ministry, and declaring all the Acts of our Ministerial Function void & null, or condemning these principles and practices which wee judge to be just and lawful.

510. *Queritur*, Whether the annual office of Ruling (not preaching Elders) chosen out among the people and joined with Ministers in Kirk Sessions, Presbyteries, Provincial and General Assemblies, and their Committee to assist and concur with them in the Exercise of Discipline and Government, can be warrantably affirmed to be of divine Institution, and if any footstep of such an office doth appear in the practice of the antient Church, or any plain convincing proof of its Institution can be produced out of the Scriptures, and if this office be not of divine Institution, whether a Judicatory consisting in part of such Officers pretending to divine Institution, and to act by commission and warrant from Jesus Christ be a lawful Judicatory.

To the which *Queries* wee having received no satisfactory Answer, And in regard that they manifestly stated themselves as parties against those of our Character and persuasion Therefore, for Maintaining the Liberties of this National Church, and for many other reasons moving us thereto, which we are resolved in due time to publish to the World, we find our selves obliged Unanimously to testify against the pretended Ecclesiastick Authority of their Committee, and to protest against all their proceedings, Acts and Sentences in the qualitie of an Ecclesiastick Judicatory and to appeal to Their Majesties King William & Queen Mary as supreme Judges under God within these Dominions, & to the next lawfully constitute & orderly called General Assembly of this National Church; And wee do hereby protest against any sentence past or to be past against any of our number that are cited or may be cited before this Committee, and do appeal to Their Majesties as said is, and this wee do not as if wee would protect any that are truly guilty (if any such be among us) nor as if wee would not give all due deference to this Committee in submitting to them if they cloathed themselves only with a Delegation from the Civil power, but that wee cannot (untill wee be resolved in the above written scruples) acknowledge any Ecclesiastick power or Jurisdiction in this Committee or their constituents to be Judges of any of our number: And finally wee protest that this our protestation and appeal, together with the Queries above mentioned (as they were given in before entering this protestation) be insert *Verbatim* in the Records of this Committee *ad futuram remanentiam*.

Sic Subscribitur.

Thomas Robertson,
All: Clark.
Mr. John Dunlop.
Mr. Tho: Crevy.
All: Lunan,
Gillb Ramsay,

Jam: Gordon.
Geo: Seaton.
Mr. Geo: White
Al: Milne,
Rich Maitland.
Geo: Smith,

A Protestation and Appeal of the Diocess of *Ross*
in their own Name and their Brethren
therein mentioned, Against the present
Committee at

FOR as much as by the principles of the Presbyterian Government, there be no higher degree in the Church than Presbiters, and all Presbiters be equall in power and Authority, and that the power of preaching the word and administering the Sacrament; And that of Discipline and Government are inseparable in the office of Pastours, And seeing no Assembly of Church Officers can by any Divine or Ecclesiasticall Lawes justly acclaime any jurisdiction over any Church wherein it is not duly represented, by Delegates from its respective Presbitries by a call thereto, or at least allowance to sit therein And that in direct opposition to those of their own principles, a small party of our Presbyterian Brethren to the number of fifty or sixty or there about, have taken upon them the exercise of the whole Ecclesiastical power of this National Church and have exercised absolut Authority over their Brethren to the number of Nine Hundred, to the utter exclusion of them from having any share in the Church Government Upon which considerations, and in regard of the strange and unusual methods followed by them against diverse of our Brethren, and that they have Manifestly stated themselves as parties against those of our Character and perswasion, As also in respect of their uncharitable and Illegal procedures in accepting of some Malicious and calumnious Lybells against severall Ministers contrait to the expresse terms of the Eleventh Act of their own late pretended Generall Assembly viz: (As likewise that the said commission and all other Judicatories are to take care, that if any should be found to have Maliciously or calumniously accused any Minister they shall be Condingly Censured) And with all, In respect of their being so unconcerned for, and regardless of the well fare of this Diocess, by making it their business to make more vacancies therein, before they will or can fill up those in it already and thereby exposes it to the invasions of emissary Priests which are numerous about it and to encourage more than already the many villanies and abominations that (by reason of our being divested of the power of discipline abound and pass uncontroled to the great shame and reproach of the protestant Religion. Therefore for maintaining the liberties of this Nationall Church and many other reasons moving us thereto, Wee find our selves obliged unanimously to testifie against the pretended Ecclesiastical Authority of this Committee. Likeas by these wee doe actually, in our own and in name of our Brethren in the Diocesses and Shyres of *Aberdeen, Angus, and Merns, Murray, Ross, Caithness, and Orkney* as also in the name of those who have lately entered into their Churches upon Legall Calls from their parochiners, Protest, That we own not the Assemblies of our Presbyterian Brethren, since the last Establishment of the Church Government, to be the full or due representatives of this National Church. And consequently that no person or persons, by vertue of a delegation from them,

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can justly claime any Ecclesiasticall power to be the judges of our lives and Doctrine, And upon these accounts Protest against all their proceedings Acts and sentences in the qualitie of an Ecclesiastick Judicatorie: And therefore doe appeal from them as our judges, Unto their Majesties *King William & Queen Mary*, and to the next rightly stated and orderly called General Assembly of this Nationall Church. and this wee doe not, as if wee would protect or own any that are truly scandalous (if any such be amongst us) But that wee cannot without betraying the priviledges of this National Church, Acknowledge any Ecclesiastical power or Jurisdiction in this Committee or its Constituents to be judges of any of our number, As Witness These at *Chanory of Ross* the Twenty first of *June*, 1694 Years, Subscribed with our hands
Sic Subscribitur,

Ken: Mackenzie Minister at *Loggie*
Andrew Ross Minister at *Urquhars*
Mr. Arthur Sutherland Minister at *Eddertoun*
Don: Forbes Minister at *Kilmoor Easter*
Mr. J. Smith Minister at *Kilmoor Wester*
Jo. Mackenzie Minister at *Lochbroon*
Aeneas Morison Conant
Mr. Jo Mackenzie Minister at *Kilernan*

Mr. Robert Ross Minister at *Tayne*.
Rod: Mackenzie Minister at *Avach*
Mr. J. Mackenzie Minister at *Feodertie*
John Mc Rae Minister at *Dingual*.
William Mackenzie at *Roskein*
Thomas Fraser Minister at *Suddie*
Mr. Alex: Ross Minister at *Kincairdine*